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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 18, 1988 -- Cumulative volume of freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the first five weeks of 1988 was an estimated 91.5 billion ton-miles, up 6.4 percent from the comparable period of last year, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended February 6 was an estimated 18.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 2.5 percent from the 17.9 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Traffic during the week ended January 30 (unreported previously) was an estimated 19.1 billion ton-miles, up 11.3 percent from the 17.1 billion carried a year earlier.

Carloadings originated in the week ended February 6 totaled 407,357, up 1.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 2.4 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 0.5 percent in the East and 3.6 percent in the West.

Carloadings originated in the week ended January 30 totaled 417,293, up 11.5 percent from last year, and 0.2 percent higher than the preceding week. Carloadings originated were up 17.7 percent in the East and 5.2 percent in the West.

Piggyback

The cumulative volume of piggyback traffic for the first four weeks of this year was 395,530 trailers and/or containers, up 5.9 percent from 1987.

In the week ended January 30, trailers and/or containers loaded totaled 104,393, up 10.8 percent from 1987. In the week ended January 23 (unreported previously), a total of 101,156 trailers and/or containers were loaded, an increase of 9.3 percent over a year ago.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/6/88:

	Loadings in Week ended February 6, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,466	I	6,143	22.5	D	728	2.1
Other farm products	4,097	I	329	8.7	D	905	18.1
Metallic ores	12,297	D	663	5.1	I	1,103	9.9
Coal	113,546	D	3,109	2.7	D	5,892	4.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,355	I	84	0.7	I	92	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	9,916	I	672	7.3	D	102	1.0
Grain mill products	10,724	D	444	4.0	D	465	4.2
Food and kindred products	11,308	D	292	2.5	D	307	2.6
Primary forest products	10,375	D	574	5.2	D	484	4.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,562	D	215	2.8	D	1,177	13.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,487	D	282	2.2	I	60	0.5
Chemicals and allied products	27,393	I	699	2.6	D	1,079	3.8
Petroleum products	4,830	I	171	3.7	D	286	5.6
Stone, clay and glass products	9,268	I	224	2.5	D	51	0.5
Coke	5,769	I	1,455	33.7	I	419	7.8
Metals and products	10,647	I	2,186	25.8	D	957	8.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,438	D	2,874	12.9	D	586	2.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,349	I	639	7.3	I	271	3.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,562	D	480	15.8	D	178	6.5
All other carloads	80,968	I	4,080	5.3	I	1,316	1.7
Total Cars Loaded	407,357	I	7,749	1.9	D	9,936	2.4
Corresponding week of 1987	399,608						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (5 weeks)	2,024,548	1,907,883	I 6.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
4 weeks ended January 30	73.1	68.1	I 7.4
Week ended February 6	18.4	17.9	I 2.5
5 Weeks cumulative	91.5	86.0	I 6.4

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/30/88:

	Loadings in Week ended January 30, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,194	I	8,920	35.3	I	1,260	3.8
Other farm products	5,002	I	795	18.9	I	121	2.5
Metallic ores	11,194	D	687	5.8	I	584	5.5
Coal	119,438	I	15,482	14.9	D	4,272	3.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,263	I	1,286	12.9	D	553	4.7
Nonmetallic minerals	10,018	I	2,832	39.4	I	186	1.9
Grain mill products	11,189	D	243	2.1	I	285	2.6
Food and kindred products	11,615	I	615	5.6	D	76	0.7
Primary forest products	10,859	I	532	5.2	I	415	4.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,739	I	144	1.7	I	852	10.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,427	D	847	6.4	D	209	1.7
Chemicals and allied products	28,472	I	1,911	7.2	I	558	2.0
Petroleum products	5,116	D	6	0.1	I	209	4.3
Stone, clay and glass products	9,319	I	1,255	15.6	I	198	2.2
Coke	5,350	I	1,508	39.3	D	187	3.4
Metals and products	11,604	I	3,273	39.3	I	730	6.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,024	D	1,926	8.8	D	16	0.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,078	I	1,016	12.6	D	494	5.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,740	D	106	3.7	I	57	2.1
All other carloads	79,652	I	7,143	9.9	I	1,037	1.3
Total Cars Loaded	417,293	I	42,897	11.5	I	685	0.2
Corresponding week of 1987	374,396						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (4 weeks)	1,617,191	1,508,275	I 7.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
3 weeks ended January 23	54.1	50.9	I 6.1
Week ended January 30	19.1	17.1	I 11.3
4 Weeks cumulative	73.1	68.1	I 7.4

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